

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-17 are pending. Please cancel claims 3, 6-10, and 13 without prejudice or disclaimer. Please amend claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 11, 12, 14, and 15; and add new claims 18-23 as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing Of Claims:

1. **(currently amended)** An image reading apparatus ~~characterized by~~ comprising:

an original convey unit ~~for moving~~ adapted to move an original on an original table in a sub-scanning direction;

an image reading unit ~~for reading~~ adapted to read the original image light while moving the original by using said original convey unit;

an abnormality detection unit ~~for detecting~~ adapted to detect an abnormality on said original table and detecting a pixel corresponding to the abnormality as an abnormal pixel a reading position of said image reading unit before said image reading unit reads the original; and

a control unit ~~for limiting a predetermined function in accordance with the position of the abnormal pixel~~ adapted to limit an original size in a main-scanning direction which is permitted to be read by said image reading unit in accordance with the position of the abnormality detected by said abnormality detection unit.
2. **(currently amended)** The apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said abnormality detection unit detects continuity and a position of image data read by said image reading unit to detect the data as an ~~abnormal pixel~~ abnormality.
3. **(canceled)**

4. **(currently amended)** The apparatus according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said abnormality detection unit detects continuity, a position, and a ~~linewidth~~ width of the image data to detect the data as an ~~abnormal pixel~~ abnormality.
5. **(currently amended)** ~~The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control unit limits a resolution of an image in accordance with the abnormal pixel detected by said abnormality detection unit~~ An image reading apparatus comprising:
an original convey unit adapted to move an original;
an image reading unit adapted to read the original while moving the original by using
said original convey unit and output image reading data;
an abnormality detection unit adapted to detect an abnormality on a reading position
of said image reading unit before said image reading unit reads the original; and
a control unit adapted to limit a resolution of the image reading data in accordance
with the size of the abnormality detected by said abnormality detection unit.
- 6.-10. **(canceled)**
11. **(currently amended)** ~~An image reading method of reading an original image by illuminating an original with light, characterized by~~ while moving the original in a sub-scanning direction, comprising:
detecting an abnormal state at a portion through which original illumination light
passes to detect a pixel corresponding to the abnormal state as an abnormal pixel
abnormality on a reading position before reading the original; and
limiting a predetermined function in accordance with the position of the detected
abnormal pixel an original size in a main-scanning direction which is permitted to
be read in accordance with the position of the detected abnormality.

12. **(currently amended)** The method according to claim 11, ~~characterized in that in~~
wherein the abnormality detection, continuity and a position of read image data are
detected to detect the data as an ~~abnormal pixel~~ abnormality.
13. **(canceled)**
14. **(currently amended)** The method according to claim 11, ~~characterized in that in~~
wherein in the abnormality detection, continuity, a position, and a ~~linewidth~~ width of read
image data are detected to detect the data as an ~~abnormal pixel~~ abnormality.
15. **(currently amended)** ~~The method according to claim 14, characterized in that in the~~
~~abnormality detection, a resolution of an image is limited in accordance with the detected~~
~~abnormal pixel~~ An image reading method of reading an original while moving the
original, comprising:
detecting an abnormality on a reading position before reading the original; and
limiting a resolution of image reading data in accordance with the size of the detected
abnormality.
16. (original) A program characterized by causing a computer to execute the image reading
method defined in claim 11.
17. (original) A storage medium characterized by storing the program defined in claim 16 as
a computer-readable program.
18. **(new)** The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said abnormality detection unit
detects continuity and a position of image data read by said image reading unit to detect
the data as an abnormality .

19. **(new)** The apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said abnormality detection unit detects continuity, a position, and a width of image data to detect the data as an abnormality .
20. **(new)** The method according to claim 15, wherein in the abnormality detection, continuity and a position of read image data are detected to detect the data as an abnormality .
21. **(new)** The method according to claim 15, wherein in the abnormality detection, continuity, a position, and a width of read image data are detected to detect the data as an abnormality .
22. **(new)** A program characterized by causing a computer to execute the image reading method defined in claim 15.
23. **(new)** A storage medium characterized by storing the program defined in claim 22 as a computer-readable program.